



Yesler Park Community Design Meeting 2

Thursday, August 28, 2014

6:30-8:00

Yesler Community Center

Meeting #2 Notes

Seattle Parks and Recreation held the second public meeting to discuss the new park. The goals of the meeting were to

- Recap the design process
- Review the current schematic design and answer general questions
- Listen to ideas and input about specific park elements

More than 50 people attended the meeting. The attendees were diverse in culture and age. Most people came from Yesler Terrace, some from the First Hill neighborhood.

Pamela Kliment, project planner, started the meeting by welcoming people and encouraging them to give feedback on the project. She also introduced the project team: landscape architects Shwu-jen Hwang and Frank Robinson, Project manager Toby Ressler, and, project artist, Christine Bourdette.

Christine Bourdette discussed her past work and answered questions (www.christinebourdette.com)

The main presentation began with a history of the design process. The landscape architects described the first meeting. The primary goal of the first meeting was to determine where the elements would be located. The elements were derived from earlier brainstorming work done by the community. At that meeting, three options were shown with the elements in different places and groupings. Parks learned that people wanted the spaces grouped together and near Yesler Way.

In addition, we heard that the following things were important to the community

- Open space and walking
- Plaza for events, market
- Fountain and social spaces
- Children's play area for all ages
- Paved court for basketball and other games
- Open lawn
- Picnic areas
- Board games
- Adult fitness equipment
- Trees, flowers
- Lighting
- Art

Next, the landscape architects explained how the organization of the elements came from discussions at the first public meetings. They described how the park design plan is inspired from nature; the spiral shape. This idea helped the landscape architects organize the elements in a way that reflected the comments from the community with an overriding concept. Specific areas of the park were described in detail.

- Plaza- The plaza has a spiral pattern with a fountain and a shade structure. There will be moveable tables and chairs and room for a stage that can hold 300-400 people.
- Open Lawn- The lawn can be used for Frisbee, volleyball, badminton, other informal games, having picnics and exercise.
- Paved Court Games- This space can be used for basketball, four square, and hopscotch. It is large enough to be used for an outdoor cinema and parties for up to 100-200 people
- Entry Garden- This south entrance will have flowers and areas for socializing
- Playground equipment- For children of all ages

There were three opportunities for input. After the landscape architects reviewed the plan, they fielded general questions. During this time, there were questions about the plan; schedule, the possibility of a restroom, location of the exercise stations and safety issues. Frank described where the lights will be; on the main stairs and the paths. There was concern about cleanliness. Frank responded that Parks would be at the park every day to clean up. The budget isn't large enough to include a restroom. There was also a question about the schedule; the design will be complete in June 2015 and the construction will start in July 2015. Parks will be coordinating with the SHA construction work

Next, people were able to walk around and look at the plans, drawings and photographs of the preferred schematic plan and give input on individual design elements (See [Presentation](#)). Most of the activity at the displays described different types of play equipment. Community members, adults and children, put dots on the play equipment elements and styles they thought would be fun. They also discussed their ideas with landscape architect and play expert, Shwu-jen Hwang. There is a lot of information about the play equipment that the landscape architects will be reviewing to develop the play area including the desires of the community, what play elements will work well together and what will fit into the site. In addition there were positive comments from people about the seating areas and walking paths with a strong suggestion from the Vietnamese people present at the meeting to keep the trees along the path. These are currently in the design. There was support of the smaller seating areas away from the play area for more intimate conversation, morning coffee and other activities especially for seniors.

The project team members walked around to answer questions and further explain other parts of the plan. There were additional conversations at the tables devoted to individual languages: Somali, Vietnamese, Amharic, Oromo, Tigrinya and Cantonese. These primarily centered on security and cleanliness.

